Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A plasmid vector for *in vivo* administration to a host, comprising:

a nucleotide sequence encoding a respiratory syncytial virus fusion (RSV F) protein lacking an autologous RSV F signal peptide sequence and including a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous signal peptide which enhances the level of expression of RSV F protein in the host; and

a promoter sequence operatively coupled to the nucleotide sequence for expression of said RSV F protein in the host.

2. (Original) The vector of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous signal peptide encodes Herpes Simplex Virus I (HSV I) gD.

3. (Currently amended) A plasmid [[~~The~~]] vector for *in vivo* administration to a host, comprising:

a nucleotide ~~of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide~~ sequence encoding ~~encodes~~ a respiratory syncytial virus fusion (RSV F) protein fragment lacking a transmembrane coding region, said fragment lacking an autologous RSV F signal peptide sequence and including a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous signal peptide which enhances the level of expression of RSV F protein fragment in the host; and

a promoter sequence operatively coupled to the nucleotide sequence for expression of said RSV F protein in the host.

4. (Original) The vector of claim 1 wherein said promoter sequence is an immediate early cytomegalovirus promoter.

5. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 1 further including a second nucleotide sequence to enhance the immunoprotective ability of said RSV F protein when expressed *in vivo* from said vector in a host, said second nucleotide sequence

comprising a pair of splice sites to prevent aberrant mRNA splicing adjacent to the RSV F protein encoding nucleotide sequence.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 5 ~~claim 6~~ wherein said second nucleotide sequence is located between said ~~first~~ nucleotide sequence and said promoter sequence.

8. (Original) The vector of claim 7 wherein said second nucleotide sequence is that of rabbit β-globin intron II.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A plasmid which is plasmid p82M35B (ATCC 203790) as shown in Figure 10.

11. (Previously presented) An immunogenic composition for *in vivo* administration to a host for the generation in the host of a protective immune response to RSV F protein, comprising a plasmid vector as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier therefor.

12. to 24. (Cancelled)